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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-19

INFO OPM-03 SC-01 RSC-01 USIA-12 H-02 NSC-10 L-03 INR-07 P-04 CIA-04
DOD-01 SP-02 SS-35 NSAE-00 SAL-01 AID-30 RSR-01 /136 W

R 110945Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8606
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CIC/MR
REVIEWED BY Ivan Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8248

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: KIEN HOA PROVINCE

REF: SAIGON 6.3(

1. OF THE THIRTY CANDIDATES WHO ORIGINALLY FILED FOR THE TWO VIETNAMESE SEATS IN KIEN HOA (REFTEL), NINETEEN REMAIN. ELEVEN CANDIDATES EITHER WITHDREW OR WERE REJECTED FOR INSUFFICIENT OR INCORRECT DOCUMENTATION.

THEY ARE:

(1) NGUEYN THANH DAT - WITHDREW

NGUYEN VAN KHOAI - INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION.

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AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION

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TRAN TAN NHUT - INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION;

DOAN NGOC PHUON - INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION;

LE THANH LIEM - INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION;

VO TONG LUC - WITHDREW;

LE QUANG THANH - WITHDREW;

HO VAN NON - INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION;

DINH CONG KINH - WITHDREW;

PHAM THANH NGOC - INCOMPLETE DOCUENTATION;

CAO VAN GIAT - WITHDREW.

2 BASIC BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON ALL CANDIDATES WAS REPORTED REFTEL. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE LEADING CONTENDERS.

A. TRAN NGOC CHAU, ARVN LT COL., PROVINCE CHIEF OF KIEN HOA 1964-65 [illegible] PRESENT

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PROVINCE CHIEF CONSIDERS CHAU A STRONG CANDIDATES AS DO VOTHER OBSERVERS WHO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT PROVINCE CHIEFS DO MAKE ENEMIES. CHAU IS FROM A MANDARIN CENTRAAL VIETNAMESE FAMILY AND EXHIBITS A STRONG SENSE OF DEDICATION

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[illegible] HE HAS LONG WANTED TO ENTER POLITICS BUT WAS KESUSED LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM ARMY TO RUN FOR CA, REPORTEDLY BY GEN THANG WITH WHOM HE IS ON BAD TERMS. CHAU'S LAST POST WAS "ON THE SHELF" IN THE RD MINISTRY; BEFORE THAT HE HAD POSITION AT RD TRAINING CENTER IN VUNG TAU WHERE HIS STEWARDSHIP WAS SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL. PROVINCE CHIEF SAYS CHAU HAS SUPPORT FROM "THE AUTHORITIES", WHICH SEEMS SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY IN VIEW

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OF HIS RECENT CONFLICTS WITH VARIOUS ELEMENTS WITH THE GVN. CHAU IS AN OUTSPOKEN CRTIC OF BOTH AMERICAN AND GVN POLICIES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO VOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT. HE IS ARTICULATE (HE SPAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH) AND FULL OF IDEAS WHICH HE PRESENTS FORCEFULLY. CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION EXISTS ON LT COL CHAU.

B. NGUYEN DINH HIEU, SECRETARY GENERAL OF KIEN HOA PROVINCE COUNCIL. WAS THIEU-KY REPRESENTATIVE IN PROVINHA FOR PRES-IDENTIAL ELECTIONS. BUDDHIST. WAS ON PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAIR-MAN HAO'S WINNING SLATE FOR CA ELECTIONS, AND MAY COOPERATE

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WITH HIM AGAIN. HOPES TO WIN THROUGH HIS MEMBERSHIP IN MANY PROVINCIAL
RGANIZATIONS INCLUDING POST AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL UNIT OF BUDDHIST ASSOCIALTION. HIEU SAYS H OPPOSES STRUGGLE MOVEMENT, SAYS PROVINCE RESIDENTS CONCERNED WITH DAILY EXISTENCE, NOT BY TOP-LEVEL RELIGIOUS DISPUTES. HIEU IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCE PTA, HAS SEATBON LOCAL COMMITTEE TO HELP WAR VETERANS. HE ALSO CALIMS FREQUENT CON-POTACTS WITH CATHOLICS AND CAO DAI AS WELL AS WITH STUDENTS.

C. LE QUANG HAO, CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND CA MEMBER. IN CA CONTEST, HAO'S SLATEWON MOST VOTES. BUDDHIST.

D. NGUYEN NGOC KY, CAO DAI WHOSE FATHER WAS FOUNDER OF BEN TRE CAO DI SECT. SLATE HE HEADED RAN THIRD OF NINE DURING CA ELECTIONS, PRIMARLY DUE TO CAO DAI SUPPORT WHICH HE LSO
EXPECTYMTO GET IN COMING ELECTION. ASIDE FROM CAO DAI, KY'S POPULARITY IS CONSIDERED LIMITED.
E. LE DUY YEN, MEMBER OF PROVINCE COUNCIL. SUU REPRESENTATIVE

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DURING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. LACK OF FUNDS A DRAWBACK.

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F. BUI QUANG UT, MEMBER OF PROVINCE COUNCIL. ASSEMBLY MEMBER DURING DIEM PERIOD, AND HAS BEEN TO US FOUR TIMES. PROVINCE CHIEF CONSIDERS UT A VERY STRONG CONTENDER.

3. OTHER CANDIDATES:

A. HUYNH NGOC DIEU, HUONG REPRESENTATIVE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, MRS MEMBER.

B. PHAM QUANG AN, STRONG IN MO CAY DISTRICT. HAS RUN FOR VARIOUS OFFICES BEFORE.

C. HO HAI HOANG, PRACTICES MEDICINE ALTHOUGH NOT AN MD. SAID TO BE SOMEWHAT OF A BON VIVANT WHO IS VERY FOND OF COCKFIGHTING.

4. NUMBER OF STRONG CANDIDATES MAKE KIEN HOA RACE AN INTERESTING ONE. CHAU, HIEU AND HAO ARE LEADING CONTENDERS WITH FORMER PROBABLY BENEFITING FROM PREVIOUS CONNECTIONS AS PROVINCE CHIEF, WHILE LATTER TWO ARE PROVEN VOTE-GETTERS AND ARE LIFETIME RSIDENTS OF KIEN HOA WITH DEEP ROOTS THERE, WHICH CHAU LACKS.
LOCKE

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